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MORAL AND INSTRUCTIVE

T A L E S

FOR THE

IMPROVEMENT

OF

YOUNG LADIES:

CALCULATED TO

AMUSE THE MIND,

AND

FORM *the* HEART *to* VIRTUE.

L O N D O N:

Printed and sold by JOHN MARSHALL and Co. at No. 4,

Aldermay Church-Yard, in Bow-Lane.

MOORE & COMPANY

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P R E F A C E.

THE following little collection of Tales fell into my hands among other writings of a deceased friend; and, as I found them capable of conveying some moral reflections, I thought the publication of them might be a source of improvement to those young females who are permitted to peruse works in which instructions is blended with amusement: of whatever appeared exceptionable I have endeavoured to divest them;
and

P R E F A C E.

and I flatter myself, they will produce some useful hints to those on whom virtuous example sometimes operates more powerfully than precept. This is all the apology I shall make for offering them to the attention of the public, and I hope they will not be unfavorably received.

H. C.

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Moral and Instructive Tales.

T A L E I.

GOODNESS TRIUMPHANT OVER PRIDE;

Or, the History of Miss CLARA HAUGHTY.

THIS young lady was the daughter of a rich planter in *Barbadoes*, and at ten years of age was sent over to *England* to receive her education under the inspection of Mrs. *Benwell*, the governess of a small seminary about six miles from the metropolis. This good gentlewoman was the widow of a clergyman, who possessed a very considerable benefice when living;

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but

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but at his death left her in very indifferent circumstances; which constrained her immediately after his interment, to fix on some plan for procuring a future subsistence. Her education had been liberal, and her natural partiality for children induced her to make choice of tuition as the most agreeable avocation, rather than for the emolument which it promised her; and, as her wishes were very circumscribed, she limited the number of her pupils, that she might the more assiduously attend to their instruction,

Among the first half dozen who were intrusted to her care, was Miss *Haughty*, whose separation from all her dearest friends, gave her a double claim to the kindness and attention of her governess; but however Mrs. *Berwell* might be disposed to bestow it, the sullen obstinacy of Miss *Clara's* temper, and the unbridled indulgence which had ever been given to her foibles, rendered her impregnable to those good impressions, which it was the maxim of Mrs.

Berwell

Bennet to instil with tenderness, when the dispositions of her pupils did not require different treatment.

Her genius was naturally bright, and her understanding remarkably good for her years; but the good qualities she possessed were so obscured by pride, that she was above listening to instruction, and chose to remain ignorant, even of what she wished to be informed, rather than humble herself to request the opinion of any of her school-fellows; the majority of whom she looked upon as her inferiors, and treated with the most humiliating distance: though frequently chid by her governess, who spared no pains to divest her of that supercilious conduct which was the greatest obstacle to her improvement; for she was not to be persuaded, that any one was worthy of imitation, however amiable, whose parents were not at least in equal affluence with her own.

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IT was the custom (among other good rules, without which no good order can be observed) for the young lady who had excelled her competitors in any particular species of improvement, to be waited on the ensuing day by her who had conducted herself least satisfactorily to her governess: a mode of correction that produced more shame and contrition in the negligent than any that could have been adopted; and served to convince them, that none are truly deserving of homage and respect, but those who acquire it by their merit.

NOTHING could be more mortifying to the pride of Miss *Haughty* than having one day incurred this penance, from inattention to her studies; and to increase her confusion, the good girl on whom she was destined to attend, happened to be one whom she had always treated with more indignity than others of her school-fellows, because only a dependant on the bounty of a relation, who had placed her with Mrs.

Bexwell

Bennet to render her capable of providing for herself, by the improvement of her talents.

CECILIA was a good-natured girl, and conscious of the pain such a punishment must inflict on a disposition like Miss *Haughty's* (even contemptuously as she had ever treated her) would gladly have yielded up the honor, to save her the mortification, but it was the rule of her governess never to mitigate a sentence which had been justly incurred; and with tearful eyes, and heart burbling with vexation, this proud young lady was obliged to wait upon her humble companion, who sat at table that day in all her best attire; as was customary for those who received such honor.

From that day the hatred and contempt of *Clara* against *Cecilia* increased more than ever; the triumph she had gained over her gnawed continually upon her mind; and there was nothing she dreaded so much as a repetition of

such an humiliating sentence; which induced her to be more assiduous in her learning, though more to avoid a similar disgrace, than the wish of improvement: for extensive as was her genius, the native pride of her disposition prompted her to believe, that it was beneath a young lady of fortune to aim at excelling in any of those employments, which were adapted only to those whose talents were to procure them a subsistence. Mrs. *Bennet* tried as much as possible to eradicate those ill-judged notions, which she saw would empoison the happiness of her life, and endeavoured to preserve good harmony between them as much as in her power; but the indignity which Miss *Haughty* fancied she had sustained, in being condemned to wait on one so greatly her inferior, could never be thought of without pain; and the day, in which she saw *Cecilia* depart from school, she deemed the happiest that had elapsed since she had been in *England*.

But

But that providence which frequently by many unforeseen accidents abases the proud and exalts the humble, ordained her to experience a mortification far more severe; little did she think that she had only been rehearsing the part she was afterward in reality to act. When her education was completed, she returned to her parents and her native country; and while in the bosom of affluence, exercised that tyranny over her servants, which she would gladly have done over her school-fellows, had not the prudent management of her governess restrained the natural impulse of her temper.

From gay profusion, the plenteous board, and a train of servants ready to execute her most unreasonable commands, she sunk at once into a state of indigence: the late hurricanes in *Barbadoes* swept away all the possessions of her father; and the loss so much affected her parents health, that she was soon after left an orphan, destitute of provision, and even destitute of friends:

for the haughtiness of her behaviour had rendered her obnoxious to most of the neighbouring families on the island; and those who would have afforded her assistance, from their respect to her deceased parents, had it not in their power, from being partakers in the general distress,

THUS forlorn and wretched, she must have perished in the island, had not an English family (who escaped the desolating winds, and determined to remain no longer there) taken compassion on her fate, and kindly offered to take her with them to *England*; where they said she might, through their recommendation, procure the place of a lady's maid, if she had no friends there who could make for her a better provision.

CONSCIOUS that she had few, and fewer still had merited by her supercilious conduct in the days of her prosperity, she gladly accepted of the offer;
and

and to fit herself for the humiliating task, accustomed herself, during their passage, to wait upon the lady whose recommendation she depended on. They had not been long arrived in London, before an opportunity offered of settling her in a respectable family, which her friend gladly embraced; having already a sufficient number of domestics herself, and finding it inconvenient to keep her longer, as it occasioned a jealousy among the female part of them, who each thought she would supercede them in her lady's favor.

BEHOLD her then divested of her usual gaiety, of dress, and in one more proper for the situation into which she was about to enter, ready to present herself before the person to whom she had been recently recommended: it was the family of a young Baronet who was but newly married, and whose lady wanted a young person of good education, whom she might be able to treat as much in the quality of a companion

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as a domestic; as her fondness of retirement induced her very seldom to visit the metropolis.

CLARA HAUGHTY was conducted by her friend to Lady Newland's, who received her with the utmost affability; but how great was her surprise, on discovering in the person of her Ladyship, the well known features of her once despised school-fellow *Cecilia Amwell*! Astonishment, blended with the fear that her services would be refused, deprived her of the power of speech; but her confusion would have remained unnoticed, or have been attributed only to modesty (for Lady Newland had not the smallest recollection of her person) had it not been for the enquiry of her name, and the hesitating manner in which she replied, *Clara*.

CLARA—whom! eagerly interrogated her Ladyship, at that moment recalling to mind a playmate of that name. No, it cannot be I looking earnestly upon her; yet I think I am no stranger

stranger to these features; but her whose resemblance they so strongly bear was a young lady of fortune:—her name was *Haughty*.

AND such alas! is mine, madam, said *Clara*, throwing herself at her feet. But the name is now all that remains of that unhappy girl, whom you must unavoidably despise on recollecting the insolence of her former conduct: yet let me conjure you not to refuse admitting me into your family on that head, for misfortune has purified my heart, and happy shall I be, if all the services of my future life, are accepted as an atonement for the folly which disgraced the former part of it.

LADY NEWLAND tenderly embraced her, while a tear of sensibility testified her concern at her sudden degradation, (which would have given pleasure to many ladies of less elevated sentiments, who had experienced similar indignity in their youth), and assuring her, that she should
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always find in her a protectress while her conduct merited one, she immediately placed her about herself, and by the most engaging affability endeavoured to lighten the burthen of her servitude.

In this humiliating state (which frequently recalled to her mind the day of penance when at school) I shall leave the humbled *Clara*; and shall recommend it to my little readers to behave to every one with that affability and condescension which may entitle them to esteem. Equally so to the most humble of their companions, as to those who move in a higher sphere; for if they ponder on the various turns of fortune, they must discern, that nothing is certain in this uncertain world: the high to-day to-morrow may be low; and that contempt, with which they treat their neighbours, be two-fold returned upon themselves: for every one, who acts like *Clara Haughty*, may not, like her, be fortunate enough to meet with one so little inclined

inclined to retaliate, as the amiable Lady Newland.

T A L E II.

INGENUOUSNESS THE BEST RESOURCE IN ERROR.

A WIDOW lady of extensive fortune had three daughters, all of whom she educated in the strictest notions of virtue and morality; and had the happiness to observe, that their dutiful and affectionate conduct toward her, promised the most satisfactory reward for her maternal cares. Lucy, the youngest of the three, was of a disposition more lively than her sisters, and frequently, for want of thought more than from any culpable intention, sunk into little errors, from which the elder were exempt; but though the prudent precepts of her mamma did not seem

to

to rectify her conduct and conquer the giddiness of her temper, they nevertheless sunk deep into her mind, and when they did not occur to memory time enough to prevent an error, they ever impressed her with repentance afterward. She was one day amusing herself in looking over some trinkets in the dressing boxes of her mamma; and in trying some things and tossing over others, to see which fitted best, had the misfortune to break a pearl bracelet of inestimable value. The accident was irremediable, and she bewailed it in a shower of tears; after which she began to ponder on the means most likely to conceal it from the knowledge of those whose displeasure she dreaded; for both her mamma and sisters had often reproved her for similar offences. The hope of concealing a fault is generally productive of one still greater; when an open ingenuous confession would procure forgiveness, and relieve the mind from the pangs of stifled guilt. Miss Lucy could not prevail on herself to own what she had done; and the better

to prevent its being discovered, hid the bracelet in a place where no one could possibly find it but herself; but her mind was so extremely distressed at the thought of its being missed, that correction would have been the lesser evil of the two. She, however, persisted in her resolution of concealing it; not being able to overcome her natural repugnance to own herself in fault.

For some time it passed off without notice; and she began to flatter herself, that it would never be enquired for; but in about two months after she was awakened from the pleasing ideas of security, by its being missed from the dressing-box; and all the servants were examined to learn what was become of it. Suspicion fell upon one of them, from her having lately made an appearance beyond her station, and that economy which the smallness of her wages rendered requisite; and the poor girl was on the point of being hurried to prison unless she would confess

fess how she had disposed of it, on which condition she was promised lenity. Think my little readers what must be the reflections of *Lucy* who knew herself guilty of what another was accused; and let the misery she then sustained, through her imprudence, teach you ever to avoid a voluntary crime; nor aim to screen an accidental one by a concealment still more reprovable. She flew into the room where the officers of justice were endeavouring to extort a confession from their innocent victim, and, falling on her knees, confessed herself the aggressor, with the sincerest contrition imploring the pardon of her mamma. The servant was immediately set at liberty, and a handsome reward given her for the shock she must have felt at the impeachment of her honesty. But *Lucy* never parted with her during life, avowing, that to that event she owed her love of truth, to which she was ever after the most faithful votary.

T A L E III.

THE FORCE OF FEAR;

Instanced in the History of GONNELLE.

THERE is not in nature a more cruel and wanton sport than that of putting people into a fright (which is frequently fatal to their health and reason) merely to indulge the caprice of a moment. What reflecting person for the sake of his jest would endanger the life of a friend ! yet do we often see this unfeeling diversion practised by those whose good sense in many other respects remains unquestioned. There have been many instances of sudden fright removing the most obstinate disorders after all other remedies have failed ; nay, I have myself been witness to its effects in a young lady who, from a violent cold, had for some months entirely lost her speech, and from seeing a valuable friend thrown from her horse was instantly

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restored

restored to the use of her tongue, even when electricity had failed, which is a proof of its extreme power over the human frame; but like many other violent remedies it is often fatal in the application. The putting any one in fear, with a view of affording them relief, cannot certainly be condemned; but even in such a case is dangerous, as it may probably occasion disorders still more lamentable than those we mean to cure, but on any other occasion is the most cruel species of amusement that can be adopted. The following story, which is a fact, will, I hope, serve, in some measure, to convince my young readers, that the momentary indulgence of a jest of this kind may terminate in a whole life of unavailing repentance.

A NOBLEMAN of great distinction was attacked by a quartan ague, which long preyed upon his constitution, and brought him almost to the grave. All his friends grieved to see him thus afflicted, but more than any of them *Gonnelle,*

nelle, who served him in quality of gentleman-usher, and sincerely loved his master. The physicians having in vain exhausted all their medical skill, at length advised change of air, and for that purpose he removed to a pleasant villa on the banks of the river *Po*.

THE Marquis found much satisfaction in a favorite walk, where the beautiful verdure of the mead, blended with the gentle current of the curling stream, afforded the most pleasing prospect, and in the intervals of his disorder helped to enliven his spirits. *Gonnelle*, who had heard it averred, that fear was in many disorders efficacious, and particularly in that with which his master was afflicted, determined to try if putting him in an extreme fright would have that salutary effect. He had observed that the Marquis stopped every day in a little thicket of poplars on the bank of the river, from whence he beheld at his ease the gentle windings of the stream; and as the water was not

in that spot so deep as to be dangerous, he resolved to push him into it, persuaded that he should have nothing to fear for his life, as there was a mill just opposite. He told the miller, that he had a mind to try the effects of fear upon one of his fellow-servants, who was afflicted with an ague, and begged him to have his boat in readiness to take him up as soon as he had pushed him into the river; and after thus instructing him, enjoined him to silence, adding, that if it came to the knowledge of his master he would perhaps be angry.

GONNELLE staid not long for the execution of a scheme so well concerted. The Marquis having one morning stopped as usual by the side of the river, in the thicket of which I have been speaking, and the miller being at a small distance fishing in his boat, *Gonnelle* gave his master a sudden push, and plunged him at once into the *Po*; and had no sooner done so than he betook himself to his horse which was waiting

waiting for him in the road, and made the best of his way to *Padua*, and took up his residence at the seat of Lord *Carrare* father-in-law to the Marquis.

* THE miller instantly came with his boat, and dragging out the poor Marquis almost dead with fright, though devoid of other injury, conveyed him safe to his family; and the disorder, with which he was before afflicted, returned no more. Every one concluded that *Gonnelle* had formed the intention of drowning his master; and the Marquis, though much attached to him, could not help being of the same opinion; especially as he had flown to the protection of his father. He submitted the affair to his council, and they sentenced him to perpetual banishment, as a punishment for this rash unprecedented action to so good a master, and never to be found again on the land of *Ferrare*, (the estate of the Marquis) on pain of losing his head.

THIS nobleman, as has been already said, sincerely loved *Gonnelle*; and knew not how to live without him: he found himself cured of his ague, and it begun to be rumoured, that this bold action had only been done to effect his recovery, which soon appeared very evident from the deposition of the miller; nevertheless, to see what effect this sentence would have upon him, he ordered it be proclaimed by sound of trumpet. *Gonnelle* having heard the proclamation, resolved to return to *Ferrare*, and if possible, see his master; but in order to evade the punishment which it threatened, bought a large cart, which he caused to be half filled with earth, and got an attestation signed by a number of witnesses, that it was the land of *Padua*. On this cart he was conveyed to the palace of *Ferrare*; and as soon as he arrived, demanded an audience of the Marquis, and told the messenger to assure him, that all he had done had been with a good intention.

THE Marquis who had an inclination to divert himself, and return *Gonnelle* fear for fear, sent an officer of justice to arrest him. In vain did he endeavour, by his attestations, to prove himself on the land of *Padua*; he was conveyed to prison, and ordered to prepare himself for the accomplishment of his sentence; and that he might believe them in earnest, they sent him a confessor.

GONNELLE finding it was no jest, and that there was no method of seeing the Marquis, made a virtue of necessity, and began seriously to prepare himself for death with all the magnanimity which he could assume. The Marquis had given secret orders, that when he came upon the scaffold, they should blind his eyes; and as soon as he submitted his head to the block, the executioner should pour on him a pail of water, instead of giving him the expected stroke of the axe.

ALL *Ferrare* were spectators and there was not one among them who did not pity the tragic end of poor *Gonnelle*. The unhappy criminal on his knees with bandaged eyes, asked pardon of God for all his offences, and protested, that in respect to the crime for which he was about to suffer, it was done solely to cure his master; for the preservation of whose life he did not repent the sacrifice of his own. After this he begged the standers by to pray for him; and laid his head on the block. The executioner then took the pail of water and poured it on his neck. The spectators, who thought that he was just then going to give the fatal stroke, screamed out at the same time, mercy! mercy! The poor creature felt so great a shock, that the pail of water had the same effect as the axe, and at that instant he fetched a deep sigh, and resigned his soul into the hands of his Creator.

WHEN they saw he was no more, all *Ferrare* wept over him; but none felt this unfortunate unexpected

unexpected catastrophe so severely as the Marquis. He too late repented the indulgence of his whim; and his reflections on the melancholy death of this faithful servant ever after soured his felicity.

T A L E IV.

THE SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS;

Or, a Remedy for ill-judged Partiality.

TWO young ladies who were school-fellows, and particularly attached, during their hours of relaxation, were lamenting to each other the separation which must take place, when their education should be completed. For my part, said *Eliza*, (some years the younger of the two) I shall have double cause to grieve; you go to partake of all the happiness which can
await

await upon a family united by harmony and love, but I shall leave the companion most dear to me of all others, and be received at home with that coldness which will render the misfortune double.

WHAT an idea, replied *Maria*! for goodness sake do not harbour it. Is it possible after a separation of four years, during which time you have scarcely ever seen either your mamma or sister, that you should not be received by them with the utmost pleasure? I cannot think it: for what sight can be more pleasing than that of a daughter who has proved herself so deserving of the expence bestowed on her?

I AGREE with you my dear, if that daughter was before valuable to her parents; but the little kindness I have received from my mamma, while my sister is almost idolized by her, persuades me, that my presence will be unwelcome: for I sincerely believe, my absence is not regretted.

greted by either. As a proof that I am little beloved, I have frequently heard my mamma protest, she could not thus part with *Anna* for the world.

NEVER regret a partiality which gives you such evident advantages my dear. There is a passage in my fable-book which if you turn to it will console you under this misfortune; for favorite children are not always to be envied. Your accomplishments and amiable disposition must be evident to a parent, when so visible to every one else; and should it not procure you that share of praise and kindness which you so justly merit, do not be depressed by it. However neglected let no resentment take place in your bosom, but persevere invariably in the paths of duty and affection. A deviation in others is no excuse for ourselves. Be tenderly attentive to the wishes of your mamma, and betray no envy toward your sister. The most unfeeling hearts may be subdued by a perpetual endeavour to please:

please: while anger only serves to render them more callous: and should your attention fail, you have at least the satisfaction of having done your duty.

ALAS! my dear *Maria*, replied *Eliza*, it is easier to advise than to act. I love my mamma, and equally my sister; but the unkindness with which *Anna* ever treats me, and the indulgence which is given to her capricious humours, while I am chid for not complying with them, is so truly mortifying, that it is hardly possible to preserve one's temper; for even a worm, you know, will turn when it is trod upon.

BUT that, my dear, only urges the foot still more to crush it. The ills which we receive from indifferent acquaintance call loudly for proper degrees of resentment; but those we receive from parents require different returns: their foibles should excite only our grief; and if impossible to gain their love, it is yet our duty not to de-

serve

serve their hatred. The good are sometimes visited by misfortunes, but that does not urge them to fly in the face of their Creator: if they are deprived of some blessings there are others yet in store for them. Your sister is far more to be pitied; unrestrained indulgence is of the two a greater evil than severity; for, if never told of our foibles, how are we to amend them; if never reprov'd, we can never know the satisfaction attending deserved praise. For my part I would sooner be sometimes chid than be insensible to the pleasures of approbation. None are without their errors, even the most experienced; and it is only by being made sensible of them that we can arrive at true perfection. Trust me there will come a time when *Anna* will have cause to style herself the least enviable; but as your sister, my dear *Eliza*, I wish she may never find the bad effects of ill-judged partiality; however, you cannot have forgotten what our good governess has frequently repeated, that correction to the mind is as necessary as physic to the body.

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THE school-bell put an end to their discourse. *Eliza* carefully treasured up in her heart the good advice of her friend; and when the day of departure arrived, assured her, that she would do her endeavours to regulate her conduct by those prudent maxims.

FOR the first half year after she left school she found sufficient subjects to exert her prudence; but in time the sweetness of her temper, and her ready acquiescence with all the commands of her mamma (while *Anna* from unrestrained indulgence, and the consciousness of not being chid was as refractory as possible) gained her the ascendancy in her affections; and to preserve it was her unwearied study. Instead of encountering harsh words and the frown of discontent, approving smiles and kind endearments were the continual reward of her dutious attentions; and as a further proof of her approbation, this mistaken parent (too late convinced of her error) tried in vain to persuade her sister to regard her conduct

conduct as a pattern deserving imitation, but found the task so arduous, that she was in the end constrained to repent her mistaken fondness, and with streaming eyes would frequently acknowledge, that in sparing reproof she had spoiled her child.

T A L E V.

BENEVOLENCE REWARDED;

Or, the History of Miss GOODVILLE.

THIS young lady was also a pupil of Mrs. Benwell's, (the governess mentioned in the first of these tales) and one who did the greatest honor to her instructions, but from the unfortunate failure of her father, who was in the mercantile line, and who had lost a valuable cargo and an immense sum in specie, she was obliged to leave school before her education was completed,

pleted, infinitely pitied and regretted by all her companions, to whom her engaging manners and amiable behaviour had peculiarly endeared her.

GLADLY would her governess have retained her as an assistant; for unlike many who can see no virtues unless wealth stamp their value, *Maria Goodville* appeared to her still more amiable than before, from the fortitude with which she supported this adverse stroke of fortune; but though her society was desirable, yet could not Mrs. *Benwell* urge her stay, as the ill-health of her mamma rendered her presence at home an indispensable duty, and must, she was conscious, be doubly consolatory under the united afflictions of mind and body.

EVERY one of the little community saw her depart with tearful eyes. She threw herself into the chaise, which was to convey her sixty miles from the dear companions of her youth, with sensations such as those only experience whose
 sensibility

sensibility is as great as her's, and whose goodness of heart renders it impossible for them to be happy under any event which gives pain to others. She at once anticipated the pleasure of meeting a beloved parent, and regretted the recent separation with her Governess and friends. For a while her heart poised between joy and grief, but in proportion as she drew near the paternal roof, the former engrossed her soul, and the sweet hope-soothing the sorrowing mind of her mamma gave place to every other consideration.

Mrs. GOODVILLE had not seen her daughter for many months, and would have rejoiced in beholding her so greatly improved, had not their recent misfortunes damped the satisfaction, and deadened her heart to every sensation of joy and pleasure. As yet *Maria* knew but half her sorrows; and the painful task of informing her, remained for this tender parent, who would gladly have taken all the load of misery on herself to spare her child a tear; but it was a circumstance

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that she was conscious could not be long concealed, and from no one could she have learned it who would so tenderly communicate the heart-rending intelligence. Their meeting was affecting beyond description; Miss Goodville flew into the arms of her mamma, and for some minutes both indulged themselves in the melancholy luxury of woe. Maria first recovering herself broke silence, by intreating her parent to moderate her grief; she then tenderly enquired into the particulars of their misfortunes, with the news of which she declared she had been more affected from the knowledge of the unhappiness it would occasion her dear mamma, than on any other account. Do not let sorrow overpower you, dearest madam, continued she; if it has pleased Providence to deprive us of the largest part of our possessions, we have still that consolation which many have not under similar afflictions, your settlement will, at least, exempt yourself and my dear father from experiencing the dire effects of necessity, and you have both often
said

said, you could well dispense with the luxuries of life. As for me, I am perfectly resigned to any situation in life that it may please Heaven to allot me. The education, which your tenderness has bestowed on me, with the blessing of God, will, I hope, ever supply to me the deficiency of fortune; as my worthy Governess, notwithstanding my extreme youth, will gladly keep me with her to assist in the superintendence of her school: and should such a plan meet your approbation, cheerfully shall I embrace her friendly offer, after I have the happiness of seeing you again restored to health and peace of mind; but till I have that satisfaction I shall be miserable indeed; for really, my dear mamma, I cannot bear to see you grieve.

TEARS and tender embraces were all the reply which Mrs. Goodville could, for some minutes, return to this affectionate and dutiful speech; but on Maria's enquiring when she was also to have the happiness of embracing her papa, whom

she expected to have found with her, she could no longer restrain her lamentations, but in broken sentences, interrupted with heart-rending sighs, informed her by degrees of the dreadful truth, and the poor young lady had the misery to learn, that her unhappy father lingered in a prison, from the horrors of which nothing could deliver him but the hand of Heaven working in his favor: twice the sum which could be raised upon the settlement being insufficient to procure his enlargement; and the greatest part of it she had already ineffectually given up in hope of saving him from such a fate.

THE most descriptive pen cannot convey to the minds of my young readers a proper idea of *Maria's* feelings, on receiving from the lips of her mamma this distressing intelligence. Her grief at first broke out in the most affecting complaints; and she could hardly restrain herself from murmuring at the decrees of Providence, in permitting such accumulated ills to darken the
brightest

brightest prospects of the good, while many who had less claim to its partiality were allowed the undisturbed possession of wealth acquired by vice. But these were only paroxysms of extravagance; her better reason soon overcame those wild sallies of her grief, and whispered her, that it was impious to arraign the will of God, who had an undoubted right to dispose of his finite creatures as his inscrutable wisdom best saw fit. After giving copious indulgence to her fears, which helped to relieve her oppressed heart, she sat down very calmly, and endeavoured to reason her mamma into an equal degree of composure.

As it was impossible to procure his liberty, all they could do was to soften the rigours of his confinement as much as the reduced state of their fortune would possibly admit: and to render it less irksome, this affectionate child resolved to pass as much of her time as possible within the gloomy walls which encircled her unhappy father. Mrs. Goodville employed herself in

making all the interest she could, in order to soften the obdurate hearts of his creditors; whom the strongest conviction of his unimpeached honesty and equitable intentions could not subdue to lenity.

BUT all attempts to effect his enlargement were ineffectual, and he lingered many months in this painful state of confinement, which must have been doubly so had it not been for the society of his amiable daughter; who not only contributed to support his spirits by the pleasure she seemed to experience in being with him, but employed all the hours she could spare from other necessary occupations in making an addition to their scanty income by her own industry: and as every one in the neighbourhood pitied this unhappy family, she was never without a constant supply of needle-work, which she always completed to the satisfaction of her employers. It had been her pride, when at school, to excel in every thing she undertook, and under these distressing

distressing circumstances she experienced the happy effects of diligence and early application to those necessary parts of learning which many young ladies of no greater expectations (than was her's when with Mrs. Benwell) think far beneath their attention. But from her distress we may learn, that they are oftentimes essential to their future benefit; for although the sun of prosperity to-day cheers us with his enlivening beams, there is no certainty of our being secured from the black clouds of to-morrow, which often intervene to the destruction of our most pleasing prospects.

A CONSTITUTION naturally delicate, and an habitual nervous complaint, which even in her most prosperous days had greatly impeded her enjoyments, rendered Mrs. Goodville quite unequal to fatigue and repeated disappointment: her health, which had long been on the decline, now became the victim of her grief, and very soon confined her entirely to her room.

This new misfortune was severely felt by poor *Maria*; who, though she had cheerfully divided her attention between her parents while both enjoyed their health, found it impossible to do so under this affliction, without giving up her work, which it pained her much to think of, as their little income, without the aid of her needle, was barely sufficient to procure them the most common necessaries of life. Fearful of augmenting the affliction of her parents, she however betrayed no external uneasiness, but redoubled her assiduities in hope of being enabled to go through what almost any one else would have deemed impossible. She exhausted her strength and spirits so much, through the additional fatigue of watching by her mamma those few hours which she had been accustomed to devote to rest, that it is probable she would herself soon have required similar attendance, had not that good Providence, which permits misfortunes but as a trial to the good, ordained a speedy termination to all her troubles, and shew-

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ed, that the actions of the benevolent are registered in Heaven, which often, in due time returns them four-fold; and even should they miss of their reward in the goods of this life, afford the most certain prospect of sharing those of the next.

In one of her holiday vacations, ere the Iron rod of adversity had fallen on her father, Miss *Goodville* had frequently, before any of the family were stirring, indulged herself in morning rambles through the neighbouring villages. In one of these early excursions, her humanity had been excited by a scene of such exquisite misery that it long made an impression on her tender mind, and sowed the first seeds of benevolence in her heart.

As she was one morning passing the door of a miserable hut, the groans of distress so powerfully assailed her ears that she could go no further, but not liking to intrude herself on

the wretched inhabitants, she waited a few minutes in the road, in hope that some one would presently come out from the house, of whom she might probably acquire the intelligence she wished. She had not stood long before a young man, apparently sinking under illness and fatigue, advanced toward the place, and taking out of his pocket some stale pieces of bread, sat down at the door, and tried to soften them in a bowl of butter-milk, which he appeared to have been begging at some adjacent farm. Not doubting but he was going to make a breakfast of them, she stood silently contemplating his famished looks, while her hand instinctively strayed toward her pocket, with the intent of bestowing upon him something to purchase a more comfortable meal; before she could draw out her purse, to her infinite surprise, instead of satisfying the calls of hunger, he lifted up his hands in token of thanks to God, and carried the bowl into the hut; the door of which he left so far extended that she could easily, without the fear of
being

being observed, see all that passed within. Judge what must be the sensations of a young lady who had before known pale want by description only, the strongest colourings of which had fallen far short of the scene she was then witness to, judge her astonishment at beholding this little bowl of butter-milk joyfully yielded to two half famished infants and their wretched mother; the latter of whom, by her death like countenance, appeared to be in the last stage of a decline, and had hardly strength to raise herself from the miserable pallet on which she lay. She sipped only a little drop of the milk, and then gave the remainder to her children, who devoured it with an avidity that shewed they had long been fasting, while their unhappy father seemed to enjoy more satisfaction in seeing them eat, than he could have possibly done by indulging the calls of his own appetite. Miss Goodville stood almost petrified with her various sensations; and had hardly power to move toward them, though the proposed relief was ready in her hand.

hand. At length she gently entered the hut, and begging them not to be alarmed, said she perceived they were unhappy, and was come to give them all the relief in her power; which, small as it was, might afford them some few comforts their ill health seemed to require, and putting a few shillings on the table, said, when she went home she would relate their distresses to her parents, who, she doubted not, would yield them more assistance. The poor woman was so overpowered with joy at this unexpected supply, that she could hardly articulate her thanks; but her husband, in accents of the sincerest gratitude, expressed his acknowledgments to Heaven, and the kind hand which afforded them relief. He told her that they had all been many weeks afflicted with a violent fever, which had brought his poor *Jenny* almost to the brink of the grave, and so weakened himself, that he had been long unable to pursue his daily labour; that he had in vain applied for assistance to the parish officers; they always refused him, alledging that

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he did not belong to the place, and they had poor enough of their own to provide for; thus they had continued to languish under the united distresses of sickness and famine, till he was able to crawl out into the village and implore charity among the farmers; sometimes he had been successful in getting a little to supply the calls of nature, but as often returned without a bit of bread to give them: and at that time had tasted no kind of sustenance for near two days.

MARIA listened with horror to this tale of real woe, and bidding the unhappy creatures cheer their drooping hearts with hopes of experiencing more humanity, left them with the tears of sensibility glistening in her eyes, and hastened home to her parents, reflecting as she went, on the savage, unfeeling treatment of those who were appointed guardians of the poor.

HER parents were much affected at her recital of the distress, to which she had been a spectator, and were charmed with the tender sympathy she discovered. They sent immediately to the overseers and reprimanded them for their cruelty, insisting upon their affording the poor family some assistance till the man should be able to pursue his labour; and then went in person, attended by their amiable daughter, to assure them of redress, and gladden their wretched minds by a present supply of comfortable provisions. Miss Goodville felt greater satisfaction from this one benevolent action than she had ever in her life before experienced; but it was considerably damped on learning the next time she came from school, that three of the unhappy objects of her humanity had survived this event but a few weeks; their health being too much impaired by fasting to overcome their illness, notwithstanding all the medical aid that was afforded them; and the poor young man, too much oppressed with his unhappiness to continue in the

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the village, had entered himself on board a man of war, to bury in the horrors of battle the memory of his private miseries.

THREE years had elapsed since this event, when this amiable young lady and her parents were under the distressing circumstances before related. She was sitting one day in the gloomy apartment allotted to her father, intent on the completion of a piece of work that would afford her some considerable profit, and, when finished allow her more leisure to attend her mamma, whose lingering state of health inflicted on her oppressed heart an insupportable load of sorrow, when the keeper of the prison informed her that a person begged to speak with her.

A GLEAM of sudden joy shot through her soul, (for the wretched are apt to grasp at air) but in a moment it vanished on thinking, that, as she left her mamma very ill in the morning, she might probably be worse, and had sent to
let

let her know; and engrossed by that idea she descended the stairs with an agitated mind.

THE sight of a person whom she knew not that she had ever seen before, and in a sailor's dress, astonished her exceedingly; but when on approaching nearer, she perceived it to be the same young man to whom she had a few years before afforded relief amidst the complicated distress of want and sickness, her surprise was still more augmented, and the recollection of the cruel change of fortune which she had since experienced, overwhelmed her with confusion, and almost deprived her of the power of asking, what she was anxious to be informed of, the motive of his seeking her in that wretched place. It could not, she was persuaded, be with a view of soliciting further assistance from her parents, as he could not possibly have cherished such hopes after learning their wretched situation—what then could induce him to come there? But her suspense was
of

of short duration, for while occupied with these thoughts, the young man advanced toward her, and bowing very respectfully, gave her a little box, which he said it had been his good luck to find on the sea-shore near an island where his captain had put in for fresh provisions; that on examining its contents which were very valuable, and chiefly specie, he discovered it to be the property of a Mr. Goodwillie; and something persuaded him it was the same whose humanity when in *England* he had so much experienced. This suggestion prompted him to seek further confirmation, and some papers containing bills of exchange and various memorandums soon proved that he was not mistaken. Determined when he returned to *England* to restore it undiminished to its worthy owner; he concealed it from his mesmates, who (had they known him possessed of such a valuable prize) would have insisted on sharing it. When he arrived in his native country he no sooner obtained his dis-

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charge from the ship, than he set out to fulfil the intention,

THANK Heaven that I have been able to preserve it! continued the grateful young man, for little did I think of finding my benefactors in a situation that would make it so acceptable: it is hard for those to suffer who have been all their lives bred up to labour; but what must it be to those who have been unused to want. When I heard of your distresses, Miss, it grieved me much to find that such a good young lady was so reduced; but when I recollected that chance had thrown that in my way which would perhaps be sufficient to help your father out of his trouble I sung for joy; and could neither eat nor sleep till I had restored it to you. I thought you, who delighted in doing good even to strangers, must rejoice in carrying such pleasing news to your father, and therefore asked to see you first; a liberty which I hope you will excuse, as the intention

intention was to make you happy. Never since the day in which you kindly stretched your charitable hand to save us from the jaws of hunger, have I felt such heart-felt satisfaction, as in the thought of delivering into your hands this little box.

HONEST, grateful creature! said *Maria*, her eyes overflowing with tears of joy, yes, you have indeed made me truly happy; and I will hasten to communicate that happiness to a beloved parent, who must have lingered out the remainder of his days in this wretched place, had not the wonder-working hand of providence wrought this miracle in our favor: for miracle it surely is, to recover a treasure which we have long thought buried at the bottom of the sea—But before I carry this joyful news to my father, inform me where you are to be found, that we may thank you as such honesty deserves.

THE satisfaction alone is sufficient thanks Miss. I thank God, that it is not now with me as when you saw me last; I have all my wages to receive, and some share of prize money, and, as I have always a good trade at my fingers ends, that will help to set me up in it; and with the blessing of God I shall do mainly well: but if the boldness is not thought too great, I shall be glad to have the honor of paying my duty to Mr. *Goodwill* as soon as he is at liberty.

THE young man then departed, and *Maria* flew up stairs to her father; but joy so overpowered her heart that she could not articulate a single word, but holding the box in her extended hands, burst into a flood of tears.

WHAT dost weep for my beloved child? said the affrighted parent. Your mother I hope is not worse—but what have you in your hands, observing the box—you seem unusually affected—

tell

tell me, tell me all—if she is no more we must learn to support the stroke as becomes afflicted Christians.

SHE lives, I hope, to partake of the happiness I bring you, replied Miss Goodville, recovering her speech. This box, Sir, contains a treasure restored to us by Heaven—my joy will not now permit me to acquaint you with the particulars, but it is yours; and the honest hand that conveyed it to me says, it contains what will procure your liberty. Mr. Goodville took the box, and on looking closely on it recognized it to be one which he had given to the friend who had the charge of his effects from India; and doubted not but some providential aid had saved him from the wreck, for no other person he imagined could have known its owner; and had they done so, the value of its contents would have been too glittering a temptation, for them ever to have restored it. But how was he astonished on learning the manner in which it had been

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preserved,

preserved, and to whom they were indebted for its recovery! He poured out his soul in grateful thanks to God for the unexpected blessing, and *Maria* having previously informed her mamma of this happy event, he that very evening procured his liberty, and gladdened her with his presence; which was a greater restorative to her health than all the faculty could have administered; for her fears of his lingering out the remainder of his days in a dreary prison had contributed more to undermine her health than any real ailment: so forcibly does affliction sometimes work upon the human frame.

THEY had now sufficient to satisfy every creditor, and a considerable sum remaining; but Mr. *Goodville* determined not to hazard it again in commerce, as the interest would be more than adequate to the support of those who had learned to be content with little, and the principle an ample provision for *Maria* after their decease. They retired soon afterward to a little villa in
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the neighbourhood of their late possessions, and were welcomed at their return by all who had before the happiness of knowing them. Their misfortunes as they were not the effects of extravagance, had not diminished the esteem of those acquainted with their real worth; on the contrary, it was considerably augmented by the patient resignation they had displayed in their distress. Among those who came to congratulate them on this happy change, was the young man to whose honesty they owed the restoration of their happiness. Nothing could prevail on him to accept of any compensation; for he constantly averred, that the satisfaction of having been permitted by Heaven to be the happy instrument of their felicity would be utterly destroyed, were he to comply with their request.

SUCH disinterested conduct is very seldom met with even among the most polished circles of mankind; self-interest too often obliterates the remembrance of past benefits, though fortune affords

sufficient opportunity to return them. Much less is it to be expected in an uninformed peasant, ignorant of every social tie. But nature on a good disposition often operates more powerfully than knowledge and education. Such examples of gratitude and honesty, I am sorry to say, do not often occur within our observation; but from those few that do, we may draw one useful inference.

THOSE, who like the amiable *Maria*, are dutifully affectionate to their parents, and whose hearts are ever ready to sympathise in the distresses of their fellow-creatures (who, should the stern hand of adversity assail, seldom have a friend to sympathise with them) though all the goods of this life flee from them as chaff before the wind, yet by living in the continual practice of piety and benevolence, they are laying up for themselves a treasure in Heaven, where neither moth or rust can corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal; often does the hand of Providence

vidence when most they despair of relief, condescend to work wonders in their favor. Little did Miss *Goodville* think, when inspired with the charitable wish of saving a wretched family from the jaws of famine, that she was preserving a life which would in a future day be the support of her's. She acted from the dictates of humanity alone; and the reward was proportioned to the goodness of her heart. There are many in the world who make prudence their plea for being uncharitable; and check the rising impulse of benevolence by their pretended fears of bestowing alms upon the unworthy: and one misplaced act of kindness, renders them ever after callous to the sufferings of the unfortunate. But these doubts originate more from avarice and an unfeeling heart than any prudential reasons, however they may attempt to disguise them under that specious veil. Ten instances of ingratitude would not deter the truly benevolent from a further practice of charity: as should one in a much larger number happen

happen

happen to be well applied, they would find sufficient satisfaction to console them under the reflection. The intention is every thing with God; more depends not on ourselves; nor is another's deviation from his duty an excuse for a deficiency in our own. The humane and tender-hearted are, it is true, liable to many impositions, and frequently, by the too indiscriminate distribution of their bounty encourage vice, when they meant only to support virtue. But the power of discernment is not sufficiently bestowed on every one to enable them to make those nice distinctions which prevent the abuse of charity; and if they happen to err from excess of humanity it is at least a fault on the right side of the question. Is it not far more satisfactory to reflect that we have relieved one too many from our credulity, than from our unreined suspicion, refused many who were perhaps worthy of our assistance? The noble-minded never want opportunities of doing good, because they diligently seek them; while those sordid souls who have

no one's interest at heart but their own, are continually complaining of the want of proper objects, as the best apology they can coin for their want of feeling. To be respected and beloved it is necessary to possess some share of the milk of human kindness, for the heart insensible to others woes cannot be the sanctuary of virtue. Let me therefore prevail on my young readers never to discourage the soft pleadings of humanity from the idea that their charity may be misapplied; it is enough that they propose relief, and whether deserved or not the act is laudable. In youth that is all that can be expected, for we are not to be supposed capable of discerning the effects till observation and experience have matured our judgment.

T A L E VI.

THE JUDICIOUS DECISION; OR, THE TEST OF
FRIENDSHIP.

THERE is nothing more destructive of social happiness than the baleful weed of envy; where that is permitted to take root no harmony can possibly exist: nor is there any vice to which it does not lead. Murder, theft, and calumny are its attendant crimes. For which of these will not the tempter prompt us to the commission of, if not carefully checked before it subdues our reason. To envy and to covet is the same thing. Those who covet seldom are long without attempting to attain the possession of what gave birth to their envious wishes. If excited by superior merit it prompts them to aim at the depreciation of the envied object;

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for nothing is so painful to a bad disposition as to see others enjoy those pleasures which they themselves are conscious of not deserving. If excited by riches frequently does it prompt to the attainment of them by unjust means. In short there is no species of villainy to which it does not open a path. An envious person is incapable of friendship; for friends delight in the prosperity of each other. Yet many who profess such attachments, instead of mutually contributing to each other's happiness, are privately seeking to destroy it by the most insidious means, and would suffer any mortification themselves rather than contribute to the enhancement of their neighbour's merit, or aim to promote their interest. Such will appear to sympathize in trouble because it affords no food for envy, but should the prospect brighten, their heart sickens at the sight, and the fear of being outvied by their prosperity is sometimes strong enough to excite the ungenerous wish, that the friend

they

they profess to esteem was still struggling with distress.

THOSE who feel in themselves the least propensity to this growing evil should carefully guard against its first approaches; for, like a gnawing vulture, it preys upon the mind; and, unless combated with all their resolution, steals imperceptibly on the disposition, and casts a veil over their fairest virtues. It not only prompts to the diminution of the felicity they envy, but totally destroys their own; for no one can be truly happy who thinks another happier than himself; unless he possesses such disinterested ideas as to make the reflection of their happiness a source of satisfaction: and surely if we profess a friendship, the well-doing of those whom we so distinguish must be equally desirable to us as our own. But even in the earliest scenes of life we have too frequently examples to the contrary, and may observe, that in the tenderest years interest exerts its influence to the destruction of more noble principles.

Whenever

Whenever envy makes the slightest approaches to their hearts, I would recommend to the attention of my young readers, the following tale:

CANDITA and *Louisa* were orphan cousins, both educated at one seminary, and, from their apparent similarity of disposition, one would have supposed that they possessed but one heart between them; for never were they known to disagree. Their tasks, their pleasures, and their griefs were shared between them. Nothing could be more grateful to *Candita* than to hear the praises of her cousin; or any subject be so pleasing to *Louisa* as that which tended to display the merit of *Candita*. They lived some years mutually happy in each other's society; and, from the amiability of their tempers, beloved by all who knew them, till envy, that foe to harmony and friendship, crept in to disturb their peace. By being always dressed alike they had never an inducement to be uneasy on the subject of superiority. Their tastes and inclinations appeared

peared to be in the strictest unison; and, while it prompted to no extravagance, their parents attempted not to restrain them. They were always as well if not better dressed than any in the school; but it seemed to give neither of them peculiar pleasure. Nor would they have found themselves unhappy had others enjoyed that advantage. But the human heart is treacherous, for with all this apparent disinterestedness about her, *Louisa* fell a prey to the most envious sensations and proved herself but a mere reflector of those virtues which her cousin in reality possessed.

A LADY of immense fortune, who had buried an only daughter, came to reside at the school with the Governess a few months for change of air; and being peculiarly fond of the society of young people, determined to adopt some one of the boarders, if such a proposal should be acceptable to the parents of the lady on whom her choice should happen to fall. By being continually

tinually among them she had opportunities of observing their various dispositions; but none appeared to her so amiable as *Candita* and *Louisa*. The sweetness of their tempers, their tender friendship to each other, and the assiduity which they discovered in their endeavours to excel in the different branches of their learning, greatly recommended them to her esteem; and on one of them she determined to fix. But such a correspondent similarity reigned between them that it was almost impossible to bestow a preference on either. From the apparent sincerity of their attachment, she had no reason to think any proposal that would terminate in a separation could possibly be agreeable; as their fortune, though not great, was sufficient to their support; and, if appearances might be credited, that little enjoyed together would be productive of greater satisfaction to them than the most splendid situation apart. These considerations withheld her Ladyship some time from disclosing her wishes; and at length, sooner than deprive herself of the happiness of enjoying the society of

one of them, she resolved to make both an offer of her protection. Before she made known to either of them her generous intentions, prudence suggested a scheme for discovering whether that friendship was really genuine, and whether both were absolutely as free from the common frailties of youth as their manners and behaviour contributed to persuade her.

THE first plan she adopted for the tryal of their tempers was that of presenting an elegant *India* shawl to *Candita*, while her cousin received not the smallest token of her favor. She flattered herself, that from *Louisa's* behaviour on the occasion, she might judge if her heart was proof against those envious emotions which are apt to affect weak minds on seeing others more splendid than themselves; and at the same time discover if *Candita* was in reality free from those natural impulses of pride which shew themselves more conspicuously in those subjects that relate to superiority over others in point of external appearance than in any other. The former part

of Lady *Mason's* intention was totally disconcerted by the prudent conduct of *Candita*; she accepted her generous present with the most polite acknowledgments for the honor of her friendship, but instead of displaying it to her cousin with the triumph of a favorite, immediately laid it by; and took no notice of having been distinguished. A short time after, her ladyship observing that she did not wear it, requested to know the reason? The amiable girl immediately exculpated herself from the suspicion of disrespect by owning with ingenuous frankness, that she should ever treasure it up as a valuable monument of her favor, but that she had never yet indulged herself in any enjoyment of which her cousin did not participate; and, as that was one which could not be divided, she chose rather to deprive herself of the satisfaction of wearing it than that *Louisa* should suppose she could find any degree of pleasure in being gayer than herself.

THIS apology was the most convincing proof she could possibly have given of the goodness of

her disposition, and disinterested friendship to her cousin. It shewed her perfectly divested of self-love, and free from those little meannesses which too frequently disgrace the heart. This action of *Candita*, endeared her more than ever to *Lady Mason*: and, that her happiness on that subject might not be incomplete, she presented *Louisa* with a shawl equally beautiful as hers; which at once obviated her objection of appearing in it. After this little experiment she became still more desirous of knowing whether the same generosity was conspicuous in both.

SHE caused it to be hinted by the Governess, that she proposed adopting some one of the young ladies, who after her death would become the heiress of her large estate, and, while she lived, enjoy with her all the happiness which wealth could purchase; but that as yet her choice was not determined, and it would most probably be fixed on her who should appear to have most merit. Every one among them whose fortune was but moderate wished to become the favored object

object of her friendship; and the emulation it excited was more efficacious in forwarding their learning than all the attention of their teachers. Self-interest predominated in the hearts of all but the amiable *Candita*; she wished nothing more sincerely than to see her cousin distinguished by *Lady Mason*; for painful as was the idea of a separation, she thought it would become supportable if so highly conducive to the interest and happiness of *Louisa*. How different were the sensations which actuated the mind of the latter! dear as her cousin had ever appeared to her affection, interest usurped the most tyrannic sway over her mind; and, next to the wish of becoming herself the happy favorite, she most sincerely prayed that *Lady Mason's* choice might not happen to fall upon *Candita*. She found it would be impossible to behold her so distinguished by the gifts of fortune without experiencing the most envious emotions. Imagination represented to her a thousand indulgencies, a thousand honors which she might enjoy in such an exalted station as the adopted daughter of a peeress.

Unceasing were her prayers to be distinguished by such happiness; while her fears, that her cousin would gain the precedence in her ladyship's esteem, momentarily occurred to disturb her ambitious dreams, and her mind became perfectly confused by its various emotions.

THE decisive day at length arrived; but Lady *Mason* not chusing to make a public discovery of her intentions, till she had secretly made trial of their sincerity, her Ladyship sent for *Candita* to her apartment, and seating herself by her on the sofa, after many professions of esteem, told her, that she had some serious thoughts of adopting her cousin, but would not make known her intention, till she had consulted her on the subject; and should depend on that ingenuous candour, which so conspicuously marked her conduct, to acquaint her without reserve, if she thought *Louisa* possessed that amiableness of temper and tenderness of heart, that would conspire to render their friendship permanent: for, continued her ladyship, I propose
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by this mean to supply to myself the loss of a beloved child; and should be entirely disappointed of my promised satisfaction, if her I happen to make choice of should not possess those virtues and amiable qualifications which I so much adored in my departed *Mary*.

It is impossible for me dearest madam, replied *Candita*, to form any judgment of your lamented daughter's various perfections, as I had not the happiness of knowing her; but, allowing her to possess as great a share of virtues as are ever united in one amiable character, I am so partially inclined toward my cousin, that I must confess I think no one could excel her. A decision in her favor would inspire me with the most heart-felt satisfaction; and I am sanguine enough to believe would restore to you a large share of your long-lost happiness.

AMIALE girl! exclaimed her ladyship, such disinterested conduct is unparalleled; let me intreat you, for the present, to keep my inten-

tions secret, even from your cousin: In the evening I will see you again and acquaint you with my final resolution.

SOME hours after, she took an opportunity of sending for *Louisa*, who entered her apartment in all the flutter of the most high-raised expectation: not doubting but Lady *Mason* had sent for her, to make known the superiority she had gained in her esteem over the rest of her competitors: but when she had been a few moments seated, her ladyship informed her (as she had before done *Candita*) that her choice had fallen upon her cousin, how visibly was she agitated; disappointment and envy were depicted on her features. However recovering herself as much as possible, she said *Candita* was highly honored by such a distinction and sincerely hoped she would prove deserving of it.

I FLATTER myself she will, replied her ladyship; for in my judgment of mental worth I seldom find myself erroneous: but you my dear

Louisa

Louisa are better acquainted with your cousin's disposition than I can possibly presume to be; tell me with that sincerity you would wish to be answered in a similar case, does *Candita* really possess all those excellencies which my partiality inclines me to attribute to her? appearances sometimes are deceitful; and I should rather reckon upon one virtue less, before I take her wholly under my protection, than find that deficiency afterward. She seems to me to be generous, discreet, and of an amiable disposition; and I have not observed that she is tainted either with pride, envy, or insincerity; but she may be deficient in some of those qualifications so necessary to constitute perfection, though I have not had the discernment to remark it.

At the words envy and insincerity *Louisa* felt herself very much confused; but it did not prevent her from replying to Lady *Mason*, that she really believed *Candita* possessed all those virtues; but from her grave serious turn of mind at times bordering on melancholy, she must prove a very ineligible substitute for the daughter she

lamented; whose disposition, she had been informed, was lively to an extreme: and thought her choice might have fallen upon many other young ladies in the school whose society would prove to her a more valuable acquisition.

THANK you my dear for your impartial candour, replied her ladyship, casting a penetrating glance toward her; but that which you misname gravity is to me her most powerful recommendation. The calm composure of her countenance persuades me her heart is unruffled as her features. Serenity of mind is the surest proof of innocence. she may be modestly grave, which is the best proof of discretion; but melancholy I am convinced never can darken the hours of one so conspicuously good, nor can the happiness of any one be incomplete who is blest with a companion, that like her prefers the aggrandisement of a friend to her own.

Her ladyship then told the consciously abashed *Louisa* what had previously passed between them on the subject of herself: and, after calmly re-

proving her for her ungenerous conduct, to which she opposed the disinterested friendship of *Candita*, told her it should be buried in oblivion, as she wished not to pain her cousin's gentle heart by a knowledge of her duplicity, but hoped she would let it be the last proof she ever displayed of insincerity; as nothing so plainly shewed a baseness of disposition, as to attempt by insidious means the prevention of another's happiness: especially an object so deserving as *Candita*; one who was attached to her not only by kindness but by the strongest ties of friendship. She then acquainted her, that from that day she should look upon *Candita* as her daughter; but as the felicity of the latter depended on that of her cousin, she should extend her patronage to both: and flattered herself she would aim diligently to cultivate those virtues so peculiarly displayed in every part of her cousin's conduct, that they might not less resemble each other in goodness of heart than worldly advantage.

LOUISA humbled to the dust, fell upon her knees, and in a flood of tears, bewailed the in-

gratitude she had been guilty of, and, thoroughly repentant of her interested conduct, expressed greater acknowledgments to her ladyship for the promise of concealing it from *Candita*, than for her generous determination of taking her also, under her protection; though the latter was a favor for which she was eternally grateful: convinced of her error, she esteemed herself happier from the consideration of being blest with so worthy a patroness, and still tenderly esteemed by her cousin, than for any other advantages she proposed to herself in Lady *Mason's* friendship.

FROM this little tale may be discovered, the pernicious effects of envy, when it has even power enough over a weak mind to overturn the most established amity. May those of my little readers who find in themselves the smallest propensity to this ungenerous passion, learn from the detection of *Louisa*, to nip it in its earliest growth; lest like her they encounter deserved confusion, and where they meant to require favor, receive reproof.

T A L E VII.

ARABELLA; OR, THE REWARD OF GOOD-
NATURE.

ARABELLA and *Fanny Delville* were the daughters of a gentleman in the West of *England*, who spared no pains or expence to render them as accomplished as his circumstances would admit; but though he was indulgent to both, the eldest possessed the greatest share of his partiality; and her superiority over her sister in point of personal endowments, perhaps, made him more attentive to her embellishment; as his expectations of her were most sanguine.

ARABELLA was no less indebted to nature than her sister was for a regular set of features
and

and a delicate complexion ; but from having gotten a surfeit, when an infant, at certain seasons of the year, she was entirely disfigured, by an eruption which had all the appearance of a leprosy. Her mamma, who doated on her to excess, was much affected at this misfortune, and consulted the most eminent physicians in the country, but all was ineffectual. Despairing of any relief, she endeavoured to console herself under the affliction, by aiming as much as possible to cultivate her mind, and render her an object of esteem, though not of admiration.

THEY both received their instructions from the same masters ; but *Fanny*, vain of her personal advantages over her sister, took little pains to acquire their praises : she contented herself with merely not being ignorant ; while *Arabella* aimed assiduously to be wise. The former thought it impossible that a pretty face could ever be looked upon without delight, though clouded with frowns, and fraught with insolence and pride ;

while the latter, conscious of her deficiency, ever behaved with affability and sweetness. Thus those features, which her misfortune rendered disgusting, by being continually illumined with the smile of good humor and content, became more pleasing to her beholders than her sister's beauty.

THEY grew up to the age of fifteen; *Fanny* every day improving in exterior charms, and *Bella* in those of the mind. But, as they increased in years, the elder sister could not restrain that over-bearing temper, which (presuming on her superiority) induced her to treat the younger with the most unbecoming insolence; and by her sarcastic observations and cruel reflections on the disfigurement of her face, would have soured any temper but one like *Arabella's*, who bore it all without betraying any signs of discontent; and would often laughingly reply, that the superiority was on her side; as a homely face was a shield against the destroying hand of time, and

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would render her youth more lasting; while a blooming one served but as a time-piece to point out the revolving years.

IN short the good-nature of the one rendered her beloved by all about her; while the vanity and self-sufficiency of the other made her generally despised.

THEY were one day walking together in a meadow which environed their father's estate; when an elderly woman heavily burdened passed them in their path; and, in passing, eyed them with particular attention. She had not gone far before the load which she carried on her head (by her making an unlucky step) fell upon the ground, and from the incumbrance in her arms she had no hand at liberty to replace it. *Fanny* stood laughing at her distress, enjoying the difficulty with which she seemed to aim at raising it; while *Arabella*, pained to observe her fruitless attempts, good-naturedly ran to assist her,

her, and with infinite condescension lifted the bundle on her head.

THANK you, my good young lady, said the old woman; but your good-nature deserves more than thanks; and I flatter myself I can cause you ever to remember with satisfaction the hour of meeting me. You seem to have a troublesome humour in your face; in my days of prosperity I dwelt some years with a physician abroad, who was particularly famous for the cure of such disorders. I never could arrive at the knowledge of his secret, but when I left him, brought with me a bottle of the liquid which he made use of; and, after treasuring it up above thirty years, I shall employ it in your service with the truest satisfaction. The balsam I speak of has eradicated what many of the faculty have deemed incurable; and I hope now will not fail of its usual effect. Two drops in a glass of cold water used daily as a lavement will be sufficient. When the eruption disappears and your complexion begins to recover its native

lustre, you may gradually discontinue the use of it. If any of the liquid should remain after your cure is effected treasure it up with choicest care, that it may afford you the satisfaction of restoring others who labour under a similar misfortune; but forget not that it is always to be mixed with water, or it will totally discolour the part to which it is applied. Tell me, therefore, good young lady where you reside, and I will leave the liquid for you.

WHAT are you doing there *Arabella*? exclaimed her sister, impatient at her delay. I wonder at your meanness, to stand chattering in that manner with such low-bred people,—come, I am tired with waiting: I am sure my mamma will be very angry if she should happen to see you.

PAINED at this rebuke, as it was in the hearing of the good woman. *Arabella* attempted an excuse for her sister, and telling the woman her place of abode and thanking her for her promised gift, tripped back to *Fanny*.

UNACCUSTOMED to disguise, she told her sister what a valuable secret she should be intrusted with, which so far from giving her pleasure excited in her the most painful emotions; as should it really prove efficacious, she knew she should lose all her boasted superiority, and ill-naturedly breathed a wish, that some accident might happen to the bottle, or that she could prevail on *Arabella* to neglect the use of it.

THE wishes of *Fanny* on that head were ineffectual: the next morning her sister began her lavement, mingling with it her blessing on the giver. In a few days the eruption totally disappeared, and her complexion became of the most dazzling whiteness; which gave the sincerest pleasure to all her friends. But to her who ought most to have rejoiced at it, was productive of the severest pangs; for there are none more goading than those of envy.

MOST fervently did she wish to have been the object of the old woman's gratitude; and, for

the first time in her life, saw the policy of good-nature: as it ever exacts a mutual return of friendly offices. To have acquired such a treasure she would now gladly have lifted her load or even carried it for her. Hoping by her proffered services to be equally distinguished by some valuable gift, she secretly bent her steps every day to the spot where they had seen her, but was never fortunate enough to meet with her again. And had she done so must have been severely disappointed, for acts of kindness wrought merely with interested views, are never rewarded by that Providence whose unerring wisdom can well distinguish between real and pretended goodness.

SHE sickened at the sight of her sister's increasing charms, and, from fear of seeing her become still more lovely, determined to destroy the bottle the first opportunity that should offer. But, carefully as it was treasured, there was little probability of being able to execute her malicious purpose, unless in the presence of her
sister.

sister. A little indisposition which confined *Arabella* however soon presented the wished-for moment. Without mistrusting her envious intention, she presented *Fanny* with her keys, and begged her to fetch from her cabinet some trifling articles she wanted; but to be very cautious in opening the drawer, least any accident should happen to the liquid, which she had ample cause to estimate most highly.

CHARMED at the opportunity, she determined to spill it every drop, and say she had found the bottle without a cork; which the closeness of the drawer had probably caused to fly and so wasted its contents. Before she executed this malicious deed a thought occurred, that what restored such beauty to the disfigured face of her sister, might help to improve her own; so hastily pouring some of it into a glass, she plentifully bedewed her face with it, and then ran to the glass to see if the improvement was as great as she had flattered herself. But what was her horror and astonishment to see those features,

features, which nature had rendered beautiful, covered over with the most dismal hue! so changed, that any one must have believed she had been seven years an inhabitant of the torrid zone. Her fright was inconceivable, she screamed loudly, and, flinging from her the fatal bottle, sunk lifeless on the floor.

HER mamma and sister ran eagerly to enquire the cause, and the latter seeing her precious gift broken in pieces on the ground, was almost as lifeless as herself. But her attention and grief were soon turned to a subject still more lamentable, for *Fanny* exhibited a spectacle almost shocking to behold,

IN a moment it occurred to her what she had been doing, and her own confession soon after confirmed the suspicion; for, humbled to the dust, she acknowledged her malicious intention, and owned the punishment was just.

THE good-natured *Arabella* was truly grieved at the misfortune, and would gladly have yield-

ed all the benefit she had received to restore the complexion of her sister; but all human help was vain: it would have been as easy to wash the Ethiop white as to restore her to her pristine hue.

FANNY remained all her life an object of disgust; and too late repented that she had neglected to cultivate those mental charms which lend attraction even to the poor homely face. Fruitless sorrow and contrition marked each coming day, while those of her sister were free from all corroding care (but that she felt for her distress) . and notwithstanding she had lost the valuable restorative, her beauty daily increased; nor did she ever after find any returns of the eruption; a convincing proof, that there is a Providence whose all-seeing eye watches over the actions of mankind to protect the good and disappoint the guilty; and should it even for a time permit them unmolested to tread in their unjust career, there surely will come a day in which the pit they have dug for others will be opened

opened for themselves. On the other hand those who make virtue their unerring guide and have but one general rule of conduct, *to do by others as they would be done by*, can never fail of happiness; for whatever ill attends them, the consciousness of not having deserved it deprives even adversity of its sting, and leaves a field for hope, which is never open to the bad.

THE END.

